

For we may pity, though not pardon thee.

Merch. Oh had the gods done so, I had not now
Worthily tearm'd them merciesse to vs:
For ere the ships could meet by twice five leagues,
We were encountred by a mighty rocke,
Which being violently borne vp,
Our helpfull ship was splitted in the midst;
So that in this vniust diuorce of vs,
Fortune had left to both of vs alike,
What to delight in, what to sorrow for,
Her part, poore soule, seeming as burdened
With lesser waight, but not with lesser woe,
Was carried with more speed before the winde,
And in our sight they three were taken vp
By Fishermen of *Corinth*, as we thought.
At length another ship had seiz'd on vs,
And knowing whom it was their hap to saue,
Gaue healthfull welcome to their ship-wrackt guests,
And would haue rest the Fishers of their prey,
Had not their backe bene very slow of saile;
And therefore homeward did they bend their course.
Thus haue you heard me seuer'd from my blisse,
That by misfortunes was my life prolong'd,
To tell sad stories of my owne mishaps.

Duke. And for the sake of them thou sorrowest for,
Doe me the fauour to dilate at full,
What haue befallne of them and they till now.

Merch. My yongest boy, and yet my eldest care,
At eightene yeeres became inquisitiue
After his brother; and importun'd me
That his attendant, so his care was like,
Rest of his brother, but retain'd his name,
Might beare him company in the quest of him:
Whom whil'st I laboured of a loue to see,
I hazarded the losse of whom I lou'd.
Five Summers haue I spent in farthest *Greece*,
Roming cleane through the bounds of *Asia*,
And coasting homeward, came to *Ephesus*:
Hopelesse to finde, yet loth to leaue vnought
Or that, or any place that harbours men:
But heere must end the story of my life,
And happy were I in my timelie death,
Could all my trauels warrant me they liue.

Duke. Haplesse *Egeon* whom the fates haue markt
To beare the extremitie of dire mishap:
Now trust me, were it not against our Lawes,
Against my Crowne, my oath, my dignity,
Which Princes would they may not disanull,
My soule should sue as aduocate for thee:
But though thou art adiudged to the death,
And passed sentence may not be recal'd
But to our honours great disparagement:
Yet will I fauour thee in what I can;
Therefore Marchant, Ile limit thee this day
To seeke thy helpe by beneficiall helpe,
Try all the friends thou hast in *Ephesus*,
Beg thou, or borrow, to make vp the summe,
And liue: if no, then thou art doom'd to die:
Taylor, take him to thy custodie.

Taylor. I will my Lord.

Merch. Hopelesse and helpelesse doth *Egeon* wend,
But to procrastinate his liuelesse end.

Enter Antipholus Erotes, a Marchant, and Dromio.
Mer. Therefore giue out you are of *Epidamium*,
Left that your goods too soone be confiscate:

This very day a *Syracusan* Marchant
Is apprehended for a riuall here,
And not being able to buy out his life,
According to the statute of the towne,
Dies ere the wearie sunne set in the West:
There is your monie that I had to keepe.

Ant. Goe beare it to the Centaure, where we host,
And stay there *Dromio*, till I come to thee;
Within this houre it will be dinner time,
Till that Ile view the manners of the towne,
Peruse the traders, gaze vpon the buildings,
And then returne and sleepe within mine Iune,
For with long trauaile I am stiffe and wearie.
Get thee away.

Dro. Many a man would take you at your word,
And goe indeede, hauing to good a meane.

Exit Dromio.

Ant. A trustie villaine fir, that very oft,
When I am dull with care and melancholly,
Lightens my humour with his merry iests:
What will you walke with me about the towne,
And then goe to my Inne and dine with me?

E. Mar. I am inuited fir to certaine Marchants,
Of whom I hope to make much benefit:
I craue your pardon, soone at fise a clocke,
Please you, Ile meete with you vpon the Mart,
And afterward comfort you till bed time:
My present businesse calls me from you now.

Ant. Farewell till then: I will goe loose my selfe,
And wander vp and downe to view the Citie.

E. Mar. Sir, I commend you to your owne content.

Exit.

Ant. He that commends me to mine owne content,
Commends me to the thing I cannot get:
I to the world am like a drop of water,
That in the Ocean seekes another drop,
Who falling there to finde his fellow forth,
(Vnseene, inquisitiue) confounds himselfe.
So I, to finde a Mother and a Brother,
In quest of them (vnhappy) loose my selfe.

Enter Dromio of Ephesus.

Here comes the almanacke of my true date:
What now? How chance thou art return'd so soone.

E. Dro. Return'd so soone, rather approacht too late:
The Capon burnes, the Pig falls from the spit;
The clocke hath stricken twelue vpon the bell:
My Mistris made it one vpon my cheek:
She is so hot because the meate is colde:
The meate is colde, because you come not home:
You come not home, because you haue no stomacke:
You haue no stomacke, hauing broke your fast:
But we that know what 'tis to fast and pray,
Are penitent for your default to day.

Ant. Stop in your winde fir, tell me this I pray:
Where haue you left the monie that I gaue you.

E. Dro. Oh fixe pence that I had a wensday last,
To pay the Sadler for my Mistris crupper:
The Sadler had it Sir, I kept it not.

Ant. I am not in a sportiue humor now:
Tell me, and dally not, where is the monie?
We being strangers here, how dar'st thou trust
So great a charge from thine owne custodie.

E. Dro. I pray you iest fir as you sit at dinner:
I from my Mistris come to you in post:
If I returne I shall be post indeede.

For

For the will scoure your fault vpon my pate:
Me thinkes your maw, like mine, should be your cooke,
And strike you home without a messenger.

Ant. Come *Dromio*, come, these iests are out of season,
Referue them till a merrier houre then this:
Where is the gold I gaue in charge to thee?

E. Dro. To me fir? why you gaue no gold to me?

Ant. Come on fir knaue, haue done your foolishnes,
And tell me how thou hast dispos'd thy charge.
E. Dro. My charge was but to fetch you fise the Mart
Home to your house, the *Phenix* fir, to dinner;

My Mistris and her sister staies for you.
Ant. Now as I am a Christian answer me,
In what safe place you haue bestow'd my monie;
Or I shall breake that merrie scone of yours
That stands on tricks, when I am vn dispos'd:
Where is the thousand Markes thou hadst of me?

E. Dro. I haue some markes of yours vpon my pate:
Some of my Mistris markes vpon my shoulders:
But not a thousand markes betwene you both.
If I should pay your worship those againe,
Perchance you will not beare them patiently.

Ant. Thy Mistris markes? what Mistris hauest thou?
E. Dro. Your worships wife, my Mistris at the *Phenix*;
She that doth fast till you come home to dinner:
And praies that you will hie you home to dinner.

Ant. What wilt thou flout me thus vnto my face
Being forbid? There take you that fir knaue.

E. Dro. What meane you fir, for God sake hold your
Nay, and you will not fir, Ile take my heeles. (hands:)

Exeunt Dromio Ep.

Ant. Vpon my life by some deuise or other,
The villaine is ore-wrought of all my monie.
They say this towne is full of cosenage:
As nimble luggers that deceiue the eie:
Darke working Sorcerers that change the minde:
Soule-killing Witches, that deforme the bodie:
Disguis'd Cheaters, prating Mountebanks;
And manie such like liberties of sinne:
If it proue so, I will be gone the sooner:
Ile to the Centaur to goe seeke this slaue,
I greatly feare my monie is not safe.

Exit.

Actus Secundus.

*Enter Adriana, wife to Antipholus Sereptus, with
Luciana her Sister.*

Adr. Neither my husband nor the slaue return'd,
That in such haste I sent to seeke his Master?
Sure *Luciana* it is two a clocke.

Luc. Perhaps some Merchant hath inuited him,
And from the Mart he's somewhere gone to dinner:
Good Sister let vs dine, and neuer fret;
A man is Master of his libertie:

Time is their Master, and when they see time,
They'll goe or come; if so, be patient Sister.

Adr. Why should their libertie then ours be more?

Luc. Because their businesse still lies out adore.

Adr. Looke when I serue him so, he takes it thus.

Luc. Oh, know he is the bridle of your will.

Adr. There's none but asses will be bridled so.

Luc. Why, headstrong liberty is last with woe:
There's nothing situate vnder heavens eye,
But hath his bound in earth, in sea, in skie.
The beafts, the fishes, and the winged fowles
Are their males subiects, and at their controules:
Man more diuine, the Master of all these,
Lord of the wide world, and wilde watry seas,
Indued with intellectuall fence and soules,
Of more preheminance then fish and fowles,
Are masters to their females, and their Lords:
Then let your will attend on their accords.

Adr. This seruitude makes you to keepe vnwed:

Luci. Not this, but troubles of the marriage bed.

Adr. But were you wedded, you wold beare some sway

Luc. Ere I learne loue, Ile practise to obey.

Adr. How if your husband start some other where?

Luc. Till he come home againe, I wold forbear.

Adr. Patience vn mou'd, no maruel though she pause,

They can be meeke, that haue no other cause:

A wretched soule bruis'd with aduersitie,

We bid be quiet when we heare it crie.

But were we burnd with like waight of paine,

As much, or more, we should our selues complaine

So thou that hast no vnkinde mate to greue thee,

With vrging helpelesse patience wold releue me;

But if thou liue to see like right bereft,

This foole-beg'd patience in thee will be left.

Luci. Well, I will marry one day but to trie:

Heere comes your man, now is your husband nie.

Enter Dromio Eph.

Adr. Say, is your tardie master now at hand?

E. Dro. Nay, hee's at too hands with mee, and that my
two eares can witnesse.

Adr. Say, didst thou speake with him? knowst thou
his minde?

E. Dro. I, I, he told his minde vpon mine eare,
Besheew his hand, I scarce could vnderstand it.

Luc. Spake hee so doubtfully, thou couldst not feele
his meaning.

E. Dro. Nay, hee strooke so plainly, I could too well
feeel his blowes; and withall so doubtfully, that I could
scarce vnderstand them.

Adr. But say, I prethee, is he comming home?
It seemes he hath great care to please his wife.

E. Dro. Why Mistresse, sure my Master is home mad.

Adr. Home mad, thou villaine?

E. Dro. I meane not Cuckold mad,

But sure he is starke mad:

When I desir'd him to come home to dinner,

He ask'd me for a hundred markes in gold:

'Tis dinner time, quoth I: my gold, quoth he:

Your meat doth burne, quoth I: my gold, quoth he:

Will you come, quoth I: my gold, quoth he:

Where is the thousand markes I gaue thee villaine?

The Pigge quoth I, is burn'd: my gold, quoth he:

My mistresse, fir, quoth I: hang vp thy Mistresse:

I know not thy mistresse, out on thy mistresse.

Luci. Quoth who?

E. Dr. Quoth my Master, I know quoth he, no house,
no wife, no mistresse: so that my arrant due vnto my
tongue, I thanke him, I bare home vpon my shoulders:
for in conclusion, he did beat me there.

Adr. Go backe againe, thou slaue, & fetch him home.

Dro. Goe backe againe, and be new beaten home:

For Gods sake send some other messenger.

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Adr. Backe